

REMARKS

After entry of the present Amendment, claims 1, 2, and 6-9 are pending in the application. Claims 10-13 stand withdrawn. Claim 6 is objected to because the claim, as amended in the last response, recites "according to claim 1 one of claims 1 to 6". Claims 1-4, 6-7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,350,657 ("Anno"). Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anno as applied to claim 3, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,294,513 ("Mitchell"). Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anno as applied to claim 7, and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2002/0055050 A1 ("Serizawa").

Claim 6 is amended to address the objection raised by the Office Action by deleting the phrase "one of claims 1 to 6".

Claim 7 is amended to correct a typographical error and now recites "according to claim 1".

Claim 1 is amended to include all of the subject matter of dependent claims 3, 4, and 5, which are canceled.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in light of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks:

The Office Action cites Mitchell to suggest that a urea-formaldehyde resin is coated on a toner particle. However, Mitchell actually discloses a shell directly around the toner particle and then the urea-formaldehyde applied to the shell. Mitchell does not disclose the urea-formaldehyde directly on the toner particle surface.

Mitchell refers to another patent, U.S. Patent No. 4,307,169 ("Matkan"), to describe the process of applying the shell directly to the toner particle. Matkan

discloses a polycondensation process of polyvinyl alcohol or hydroxyethyl cellulose and an amine as reaction products to form the shell. The shell-encapsulation process of Matkan does not disclose the reaction product of a formaldehyde/formaldehyde derivative with a urea/urea derivative. That is, Matkan does not disclose or provide any suggestion that a formaldehyde or a formaldehyde derivative is part of the shell-encapsulation process. Amines, polyvinyl alcohol, and hydroxyethyl cellulose do not contain formaldehyde groups. Therefore, the cited references do not disclose or suggest a toner particle with a urea/formaldehyde resin directly on the surface of the toner particle.

Applicants respectfully request entry of the present Amendment, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-9, and allowance of this application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required with respect to this communication, or to credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 06-1135.

Respectfully submitted,
FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY



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